



TEXAS SMART DEFENSE DATA PORTAL



BJA Smart Suite

The **Smart Defense Initiative** is the newest addition to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Smart Suite of criminal justice grant programs.

- Smart Pretrial
- Smart Policing
- Smart Supervision
- Smart Prosecution
- Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)
- Second Chance Act Re-Entry Demonstration Programs
- Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI)





Four Other Smart Defense Projects

smartdefenseinitiative.org

GRANTEE	PROJECT
Alameda County, CA Public Defender	Provide public defenders at initial appearance
Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy	Improve conflict case representation
New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice	Develop recommendations for oversight and support of 18B attorneys
Wisconsin State Public Defender	Integrate PD's individual case data with case data of the Wisconsin Court System

Texas Partners



County Representatives

- Bell County
- Collin County
- El Paso County
- Harris County
- Lubbock County
- Tarrant County
- Travis County

University / Academics

Legislative

Courts

Advocates

Counties

Defense

Tasks and Timeline

[illegible]

Data Portal Objectives

- Educate stakeholders
- Convert available statewide data into quality indicator system
- Improve collection and use of data locally
- Offer a snapshot of indigent defense wellbeing, challenges, and opportunities



DATA: Currently Collected Statewide

County Expenditure & Case Data

- ✓ by Court
- ✓ by Type of Counsel
- ✓ By Expenditure Type

County Indigent Defense Plans



Grant Awards

- ✓ Formula
- ✓ Discretionary



Attorney Caseload Data

- ✓ % of practice that is appointed
- ✓ Total # appointments
- ✓ Total \$ payments



DATA: Improved Local Data Standards



**Recommended Functionality and Data Guidelines for
Indigent Defense Technology Projects**



Local Data Systems



**Fair
Indigent
Defense**





INDIGENT DEFENSE DATA FOR TEXAS

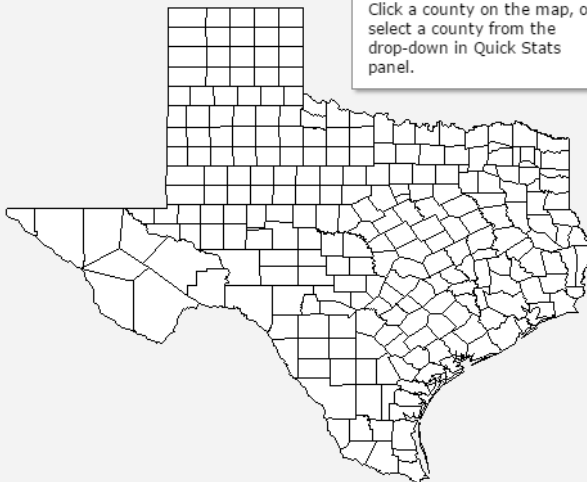
Welcome to the Texas Indigent Defense Commission's clearinghouse of information on indigent defense. The purpose of this website is to provide information to the public and to serve Texas counties.

[Home](#)[County ID Plans](#)[County ID Expenditures & Cases](#)[TIDC Grants and Funding](#)[County Dashboard](#)

Quick Links

- ▶ TIDC Home Page
- ▶ Summary of Funding
- ▶ County Indigent Defense Plan
- ▶ **County Datasheet**
- ▶ County Dashboard
- ▶ List of Public Defender and Managed Assigned Counsel Offices
- ▶ Out of County Arrest Contacts for Counsel Requests
- ▶ Attorney Caseload Report
- ▶ Download the Caseload Calculator
- ▶ Login

Texas Counties



Quick Stats FY 2015

	Texas
2014 Population Estimate	26,642,612
Total Indigent Defense Costs	\$238,029,838.13
Formula-Based Grant Amount	\$23,931,689.00
Discretionary Grant Amount	\$4,653,880.40
Non-Capital Felony Trial-Level Cases Paid	193,122
Misd. Trial-Level Cases Paid	222,408
Juvenile Trial-Level Cases Paid	41,068
Appeals Cases Paid	2,889
Capital Cases Paid	438

Harris County (Houston) Data Sheet

Category	Texas 2015	2015	2014	2013
Population (Non-Census years are estimates)			4,365,601	4,279,430
Felony Charges Added (from OCA report)	271,744	41,070	42,646	43,811
Felony Cases Paid	193,560	27,237	28,745	27,887
% Felony Charges Defended with Appointed Counsel	71.23%	66.32%	67.40%	63.65%
Felony Trial Court-Attorney Fees	\$110,036,404.81	\$17,003,911.95	\$16,381,417.74	\$14,123,612.76
Total Felony Court Expenditures	\$126,091,674.15	\$19,834,964.47	\$20,163,265.92	\$15,837,793.35
Misdemeanor Charges Added (from OCA report)	503,299	67,284	68,527	71,588
Misdemeanor Cases Paid	222,408	35,972	36,024	36,900
% Misdemeanor Charges Defended with Appointed Counsel	44.19%	53.46%	52.57%	51.54%
Misdemeanor Trial Court Attorney Fees	\$39,141,724.30	\$3,353,274.35	\$3,311,278.17	\$3,098,551.64
Total Misdemeanor Court Expenditures	\$40,061,131.36	\$3,367,197.85	\$3,370,670.69	\$3,118,143.99
Juvenile Charges Added (from OCA report)	31,813	8,415	8,344	8,206
Juvenile Cases Paid	41,068	6,225	6,438	6,646
Juvenile Attorney Fees	\$11,072,433.54	\$2,479,487.25	\$2,317,832.75	\$2,278,071.25
Total Juvenile Expenditures	\$11,747,908.28	\$2,654,578.77	\$2,456,660.27	\$2,381,774.92
Total Attorney Fees	\$165,942,107.75	\$23,554,977.39	\$22,618,271.36	\$20,061,920.11
Total ID Expenditures	\$238,029,838.13	\$36,018,641.93	\$35,425,780.97	\$31,654,468.03
Increase In Total Expenditures over Baseline	168.32%	227.51%	222.12%	187.83%
Total ID Expenditures per Population			\$8.11	\$7.40
Commission Formula Grant Disbursement	\$23,931,689.00	\$3,611,531.00	\$5,522,894.00	\$2,720,662.00
Commission Equalization Grant Award				

Basic Data Elements

- **Basic Data Elements Required to Fill Buckets:**

- Includes essential data elements required to calculate quality measures:



- Statutory Dates
- Attorney Appointment
- Eligibility Standards
- Bond
- First Contact
- Charges
- Disposition
- Access to Special Assistance
- Vouchers

Bucket #1



- **Access to Counsel:**

- Indicators of compliance with statutory and administrative requirements:

- Timeliness of Appointment
- Vertical Representation
- Reasons for Off-Wheel Appointment
- Attorney Client Communication

Bucket #2



- **Competence:**

- Indicators of quality representation:

- % of Type of Disposition
- Prevalence of Special Assistance
- Attorney Workloads
- Intensity of Client Communication
- Training/CLE
- Experts and Investigators

Bucket #3



- **Confidence:**

- Indicators of system reliability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness

- Judicial Independence
- Timely Voucher Payment
- Cost Per Case
- Expenses Denied

Data Elements and Quality Indicators

Basic Data Element

Does your county track the time and date of Article 15.17 hearing?



Counsel

What is the average time between arrest and Article 15.17 hearing?

Basic Data Element

Does your county track which attorneys were appointed to each case?



Competence

What is the average and maximum cases an individual attorney received?

Basic Data Element

Does your county track voucher approval dates?



Confidence

What is the average number of days between voucher approval and attorney payment?

Wilbur v. City of Mt. Vernon, 989 F.Supp.2d 1122 (2013)

- Footnote #5 “. . . Caseload levels are the single biggest predictor of the quality of public defense representation. Not even the most able and industrious lawyers can provide effective representation when their workloads are unmanageable. Without reasonable caseloads, even the most dedicated lawyers cannot do a consistently effective job for their clients. A warm body with a law degree, able to affix his or her name to a plea agreement, is not an acceptable substitute for the effective advocate envisioned when the Supreme Court extended the right to counsel to all persons facing incarceration.”

